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ST. PETER IN ROME AND HIS TOMB ON THE VATICAN HILL. By ARTHUR STAPYLTON BARNES, M.A. Thirty-one full-page plates. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co., 1900. Pp. 406. 21s.

THIS book is dedicated to the reigning pope, bears the *imprimatur* of Cardinal Vaughn, and is written by a priest of the diocese of Westminster. Its conclusions and, to a large extent, its method are what might naturally be expected of a work on this subject produced under such auspices. Had it been called "St. Peter's in Rome," it would have received a title designating the only important portions of the treatise.

The first six chapters are occupied with what purports to be a history of St. Peter in Rome, his banishment, his return and martyrdom, the wanderings of his body, and the final burial on the Vatican hill. The author assumes that there is no longer any controversy about St. Peter's residence and episcopate in Rome, although he admits doubt as to the dates and exact length of that residence, coming out, however, at the end with the familiar twenty-five years. The subjects covered in these first six chapters form a theme of absorbing interest, but the treatment here given them is so inadequate, so marred by faults of reasoning, and so lacking in a proper historical spirit that the conclusions reached can have little weight for the scientific student. It is somewhat interesting to note that he believes that St. Peter came to Rome in 47 A. D., was banished in 49, and came back in 62 to the city. It may be said, in passing, that the author places the composition of the second gospel, under St. Peter's dictation, in the year 49.

These first chapters are full of an unsound method of writing. The author starts out by stating very fairly all the evidence on a subject. Then, assuming one hypothesis to be true, he goes on until in three or four paragraphs he has built up a triumphant and sounding conclusion, in which all remembrance of other hypotheses or facts, so fairly set forth at the beginning, has been lost. This method of presentation occurs with such frequency that it becomes positively wearisome.

The latter part of the book is devoted to a history of the basilica from its foundation by Constantine to the present day. In preparing the materials for this portion of his work, the author has shown extraordinary diligence and pains. His conclusions are not always plausible, but the work is a decided improvement on the earlier portion. He has made accessible to English readers the very interesting account of the

excavations made in 1626 in the vicinity of the high altar, and has gathered plans and drawings from several hitherto unknown sources. He takes but little notice of portions of the church other than that immediately around the high altar, which rests, according to his firm conviction, directly above the actual tomb of the apostle. Thus the book will not serve as a history of the basilica any more than it will furnish a scientific and careful account of the problems connected with the possible presence of the apostle in Rome. As far as it does go in the former direction, however, it seems a fairly trustworthy guide. The typography and make-up of the book are exceedingly handsome. The index is by no means adequate.

There is a crying need for a work which shall tell exactly what we know about the history of the early Roman church; a work which shall show on the part of its author an ability to handle archæological data on the basis of fact, not of fancy, an acquaintance with the voluminous literature of the subject, and sound judgment on questions of what is and what is not evidence. The work under review will not answer this demand, but will prove useful in the way of reference and decidedly valuable because of its illustrations.

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KIRCHENGESCHICHTLICHE ABHANDLUNGEN UND UNTERSUCHUNGEN.
Von PROFESSOR F. K. FUNK. Paderborn: Schöningh. Erster
Band, 1897, pp. vi + 519; zweiter Band, 1899, pp. iv + 483.
Jeder Band M. 8.

PROFESSOR FUNK, of Tübingen, is unquestionably the most eminent among the Catholic ecclesiastical historians. His text-book of church history, of which a second edition appeared in 1890 (Rottenburg am Neckar, Baden; M. 6), has obtained well-deserved recognition; and numerous dissertations and researches, which have appeared chiefly in the Tübingen *Theologische Quartalschrift* and in the historical year-book of the Görres Society, have steadily increased his reputation as a scholar of temperate, cautious, and solid judgment. All experts in his department have therefore gladly welcomed the fact that these treatises, scattered among various periodicals not readily accessible to everyone, have been collected by the author, and, after careful examination and revision, have been published in two portly volumes. The first volume contains twenty-four, the second twenty-two treatises, relating mainly to the so-called inner church history, its constitution, cultus, discipline,